

Application No. 09/738,992

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting collaborative annotation [[annotations]] of a hardcopy document, the system comprising:

a plurality of workstations each comprising a computer processor, a display, and a capture device for capturing a digital image of a hardcopy document; and

a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstations;

wherein the system is operative to:

(a) identify handwritten annotations in digital images of the hardcopy document captured at each workstation;

(b) communicate data representing the identified annotation images to each workstation to permit an annotation entered at a first workstation to the hardcopy document and an annotation entered at a second workstation to the hardcopy document to be distributed to the plurality of workstations;

(c) use the data representing the identified annotations for display with the digital images of the hardcopy document at the plurality of workstations according to display criteria for each workstation; and

(d) [[displaying]] display the digital images of the hardcopy document at the workstations with one or more of the identified annotations entered at the first and second workstations;

wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectively displayed in accordance with the display criteria for each workstation.

2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the system is operative to identify a new annotation made at a third workstation or an additional annotation made by the first or second workstations, and to update the distribution of annotations to the plurality of workstations.

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the capture device at at least one workstation comprises a camera.

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4. **(Currently Amended)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the data representing each identified annotation is stored in the form of an annotation object, the annotation object comprising:

(a) information representing the annotation as a bitmap; and

(b) information indicating the location of the annotation in a digital image of the hardcopy document.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 4, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing the origin of the annotation.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 4, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing at least one of a time and date associated with the annotation.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The system according to claim 4, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing the identity of the digital image of the hardcopy document with which the annotation is associated.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the plurality of workstations is operative to display annotations in a plurality of different colors according to its display criteria, the color being indicative of the origin of the annotation.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein each workstation is operative to identify handwritten annotations.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the base computer is operative to identify handwritten annotations.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method for distributing annotations to a hardcopy document made at a plurality of workstation of a collaborative annotation system to other workstations in the system for display, comprising:

(a) capturing a digital image of the hardcopy document at each workstation;

(b) identifying a portion of the digital image corresponding to a handwritten annotation in the hardcopy document captured at a first workstation and a second workstation;

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(c) distributing data representing the handwritten annotation to each workstation to permit the annotation entered at the first workstation to the hardcopy document and the annotation entered at a second workstation to the hardcopy document to be distributed to the plurality of workstations;

(d) using the data representing the identified annotations for display with the digital images of the hardcopy document [[documents]] at the plurality of workstations according to display criteria for each workstation; and

(e) displaying the digital images of the hardcopy document [[documents]] at the workstations with one or more of the identified annotations entered at the first and second workstations;

wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectively displayed in accordance with the display criteria for each workstation; and

wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectable at each workstation for retrieving information associated with each selectively displayed annotation, including information concerning each annotation's creation and author.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method for permitting collaborative annotation of a hardcopy document in a system which comprises:

a plurality of workstations each comprising a computer processor, a display, and a capture device for capturing a digital image of a hardcopy document; and

a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstations;

wherein the method comprises:

(a) identifying handwritten annotations in digital images of the hardcopy document captured at each workstation;

(b) communicating data representing the identified annotation images to each workstation to permit an annotation entered at a first workstation to the hardcopy document and an annotation entered at a second workstation to the hardcopy document to be distributed to the plurality of workstations; and

(c) using the data representing the identified annotations for display with the digital images of the hardcopy document at the plurality of workstations according to display criteria for each workstation;

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(d) displaying the digital images of the hardcopy document at the workstations with one or more of the identified annotations entered at the first and second workstations;

wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectively displayed in accordance with the display criteria for each workstation.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising identifying a new annotation made at a third workstation or an additional annotation made by the first or second workstations, and updating the distribution of annotations to the plurality of workstations.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising capturing an image at at least one workstation using a camera device.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein each identified annotation is stored as annotation objects comprising:

(a) information representing the annotation as a bitmap; and

(b) information indicating the location of the annotation in a digital image of the hardcopy document.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing the origin of the annotation.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing at least one of a time and date associated with each identified annotation.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the annotation object further comprises information representing the identity of the digital image of the hardcopy document with which the annotation is associated.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising selectively displaying, at a third workstation, a plurality of annotations originating from at least the first and second workstations.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein each annotation is selectively displayed in a color indicative of the origin of the annotation

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according to the display criteria.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectable at each workstation for retrieving information associated with each selectively displayed annotation, including information concerning each annotation's creation and author.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the one or more of the annotations are selectable at each workstation for retrieving information associated with each selectively displayed annotation, including information concerning each annotation's creation and author.